



**EAST CENTRAL PA REGIONAL TASK FORCE
(ECTF)**

PRESS RELEASE

HEALTH AND MEDICAL COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

The Health and Medical Committee of the East Central PA Regional Task Force will host its Third Annual Workshop on November 9th and 10th, 2010, at Genetti's Best Western Inn, Hazleton, PA. This two day workshop is planned to provide state-of-the-art training to all hospital, EMS, Behavioral Health, and associated health partners in the ECTF region. Best Practices in the field of Health and Medical Preparedness and Response will be shared during this valuable educational forum.

The two-day event will feature a Keynote Address by Knox Andress, a world renowned and nationally acclaimed expert in the field of emergency preparedness. Mr. Andress' considerable experience in crisis response protocols for hospitals and health care professionals will serve as the backdrop for his Keynote, entitled *Crisis Standards of Care*.

According to Michael Whalen, Health/Medical Committee Chair, "This two-day conference features local, regional and nationally acclaimed experts in the field of Emergency Management, and will provide a wonderful opportunity for participants to expand their knowledge base, network with partners in the health care field, and learn ways to enhance their own capabilities to better serve our region. In addition to a variety of breakout sessions, this year's workshop will include a full-day training on Advanced Burn Life Support developed by the American Burn Association. This course provides guidelines in the assessment and management of the burn patient, as well as burn treatment modalities for all involved in the health care field."

The agenda for the event includes presentations on a variety of critical and timely topics including Psychological First Aid, H1N1 Updates, and a session devoted to appropriate response procedures involving nuclear, biological, and chemical threats.

Special guest speaker Julie Sidoni of WNEP News will present a session entitled *Media Perspectives During Emergencies* on Wednesday afternoon.

An on-site press briefing will be held at 11:30 A. M. on Wednesday, November 10th.

For additional information regarding this event, please contact Michael D. Whalen, East Central Task Force: Health/Medical Chair, at 484-256-7119, or MichaelWhalen@catholichealth.net.